

this epidemic. Parents, teachers, clergy, and other civic leaders have worked together to educate and protect young people and other groups who are so vulnerable to—and devastated by—the scourge of HIV and AIDS.

At long last, this investment of our time, attention, and resources in science and public health has begun to pay dividends. The past 12 months have offered us reasons for real hope and optimism after so many years of sadness and despair. New treatments, approved in record time, are showing remarkable results in arresting the development of HIV disease and are beginning to improve the health of those who are living with the virus. We have worked hard to provide access to these promising treatments for as many people as possible. We have tripled funding for AIDS drug assistance programs, and we have increased support for the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act by 30 percent during the past 12 months. We have also preserved the Medicaid program, which provides care to more than half of Americans living with AIDS, including more than 90 percent of the children with AIDS.

We are heartened by our success in reducing the risk of perinatal transmission of HIV from mother to child. For the first time since this epidemic began in 1981, we have seen an actual reduction in the number of infants born with HIV. It is within our grasp to virtually eradicate pediatric HIV disease by the end of this century. Our efforts to prevent other types of HIV transmission are also showing signs of progress. But we must remain vigilant to the continuing need for prevention, reducing the number of new infections year by year until the day when we can eliminate this disease.

As we move forward in this battle, we do so with renewed hope for the future. Let us observe World AIDS Day by intensifying our search for an end to the epidemic, for a cure for those who are living with HIV and AIDS, and for a vaccine to protect all citizens of the world from this relentless killer. And let us reaffirm our commitment to protecting the rights of all those who are living with HIV.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,
President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 1, 1996, as World AIDS Day, and I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating HIV and AIDS and to reach out to those living with this disease.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 29, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 27, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 2.

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 27, 1996

Please sit down. You can hear I'm hoarse. I just got back from a long trip. But if you'll bear with me, I will—I'll do my best to talk. [Laughter]

I want to, first of all, thank the chairman of the National Turkey Federation, Jim Cooper, and his family for bringing the turkey here, all the way from Oakwood, Ohio. His Congressman, Representative Paul Gillmor, is here; I welcome him as well. I want to thank Stuart Proctor, the president of the National Turkey Federation, and Joel Brandenberger, the executive director. I want to thank the volunteers and young people from the Big Brothers and the Big Sisters program and the Boys and Girls Club of America for being here.

You all know why we're here. Tomorrow 45 million turkeys will play the supreme sacrifice for our Thanksgiving. So, continuing a tradition begun 50 years ago by President Truman, I am going to keep at least one tur-

key off of the Thanksgiving dinner table by giving a pardon to a turkey from Ohio that will now go to the petting zoo that Kidwell Farms maintains in Fairfax, Virginia.

We can all be grateful, therefore, that there will be one less turkey in Washington, DC, tomorrow. [*Laughter*] Let me thank the turkey farmers in Ohio, in my native State of Arkansas, and throughout the country for the fine job that they do all year long, and say how very grateful I am to see all the children here.

Now, let's pardon this bird. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 23

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Port Douglas, Australia, to Manila, Philippines.

November 24

In the morning, the President met with President Fidel V. Ramos of the Philippines at the Coconut Palace in Manila. In the afternoon, he met with President Kim Yong-sam of South Korea in the Executive Lounge of the Central Bank.

In the evening, the President attended a meeting with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council and, later, an APEC dinner hosted by President Ramos at the Philippine International Convention Center. After the dinner, the President attended an informal meeting of the APEC leaders.

The White House announced that the President and President Jiang Zemin of China have accepted each other's invitation

for state visits to be made during 1997 and 1998 at a time and a sequence to be determined.

November 25

In the morning and afternoon, the President attended a series of meetings with APEC leaders at the APEC Conference Center.

In the evening, the President traveled to Bangkok, Thailand. Later, the President and Hillary Clinton visited Chitrlada Palace and were received by King Phumiphon and Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

November 26

In the morning, the President met with incumbent Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapachacha of Thailand at Boromabiman Palace. In the afternoon, he met with Prime Minister-elect Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh at the U.S. Ambassador's residence.

Later, the President and Hillary Clinton visited the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the Hall of Kings, and the Royal Library near the royal residence.

After midnight, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Anchorage, AK, crossing the international dateline and arriving in the evening Alaska time. Later, they returned to Washington, DC, arriving after midnight eastern standard time.

The President declared a major disaster in Hawaii and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by prolonged and heavy rains, high surf, flooding, landslides, mudslides, and severe storms beginning November 5 and continuing.

November 27

In the evening, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton went to Camp David, MD, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

November 29

In the late morning, the President returned to the White House. He returned to Camp David later in the day.